

TO: District Superintendents, Principals, Test Coordinators, Non-Public Administrators,
Special Education Directors

FROM: Paula Gabel, Administrative Staff Officer, Assessment

SUBJECT: State Science Assessment Updates

DATE: October 7, 2015

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), formerly CTB/McGraw-Hill, our state science assessment contractor, is currently distributing copies of this year's state science assessments and Test Coordinator's Manuals. I write to update you on some important matters that may help you with your test preparations, in anticipation of the October 19, 2015, starting date for the science testing window.

Science Test Title: 2013 NDSA, Science

The state has again elected to reuse the 2013 science test form for the 2015-16 test administration, as a cost-effective way to manage the science assessment, as the state prepares to transition to new science content standards and a newer science assessment. All state science tests for the 2015-16 test administration carry a title that reads, "2013 NDSA, Science." The test includes sections for reading/language arts, mathematics, and science. These are the correct test books for the 2015-16 test administration, **but only the science section will be completed. No parts of the reading/language arts or mathematics tests will be administered.** The English language arts and mathematics tests will be administered in the spring of 2016.

Science NDSA Test Coordinator's Manual/Science NDSA Test Directions

DRC has included the appropriate number of Test Coordinator's Manuals within the shipped test forms, to ensure a proper administration of the science tests. The Test Coordinator's Manual and the Science NDSA Test Directions for grades 4, 8, and 11 have been posted on the Department's website for ready reference: <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/Administrators/assessment/program/science/>. The Science NDSA Test Directions will not be posted to the State Automated Reporting System (STARS) and no printed copies will be provided to schools.